

consequence that the rule becomes established that men and women should never see each other eat.¹ The Varua of Central Africa put a cloth before the face while drinking, in order not to be seen, especially by any woman.² On Tanna (New Hebrides) a woman may not see a man drink *kava?* A man on the Andaman Islands may not eat with any women except those of his own household, until he is old. The unmarried of each sex eat by themselves.⁴ Amongst the old Semites it was not the custom for a man to eat with his wife and children. In northern Arabia "no woman will eat before men." Some Southern Arabs "would rather die than accept food at the hands of a woman."⁵ There is also a widespread notion that one should not be seen to eat by anybody. The Bakairi are ashamed to see or to be seen eating.⁶ In northern Abyssinia people when eating are concealed. At a wedding feast the guests break up into little groups of four to six, who eat separately, each group covered by a sheet.⁷ The king of Loango covers his mouth with a garment to eat or drink, in order to keep up an ancient rule that no one may see him eat or drink.⁸ The Sudanese think that disease or death would follow if any one should see them take food.⁹ No Hindoos like to be looked at while eating. « I never once saw a single Hindoo, except of the lowest caste, either preparing or eating cooked food of any kind."¹⁰ If a man of inferior caste enters the kitchen where food is being prepared all must be thrown away. If food thus contaminated was eaten it would taint the souls as well as the bodies of the eaters, and would cost long and painful expiation. Schwaner^u reports that the Dyaks withdrew "modestly" when he was about to eat. That the cycle of variation may be complete, we find one case of people (Kafans) who may not take food or drink without the presence of a legal witness, an adult of the same people duly authorized. The chief has a slave who discharges the duty of witness. He must be called at night if the chief has to take medicine. A stranger must conform to the rule. Spouses must eat and drink together, from the same dish or cup. To violate this rule is a reason for divorce.¹² The best explanation of the rules about eating in private is the fear of the evil eye, i.e. the envious or admiring eye of a hungry man, which would bewitch the food.

489. Kissing. Kissing is another occasion for special rules of propriety. In China and Japan kissing- is regarded with disgust. It is unknown amongst Polynesians, Malays, negroes, and Indians

¹ Crawley gives a list of cases (JAI, XXIV, 435).

² *Ibid.*, 433.

³ *Austral. Assoc. Adv. Set.*, 1892,

660.

⁴ JAI, XII, 344.

⁶ W. R. Smith, *Relig. of the*

Semites, 279.

⁶ *BerL. Mus.*, 1888, 66.

⁷ Bent, *Ethiopia*, 32.

⁸ Bastian, *Loango-Kuste*, I, 262.

⁹ Junker, *Afrika*, I, 156.

¹⁰ Monier-Williams, *Brahmanism and Hinduism*, 128.

¹¹ *Borneo*, II, 168.

¹² Paulitschke, *Ethnog. N.O. Afr.*, I, 248.